

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GV, BGEN

SUBJECT: FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT--REPUBLIC OF
GUINEA

REF: STATE 026882

1. NY TIMES JULY 31 REPORTED JUSTICE DEPT. PREVIOUS DAY
BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST COVINGTON AND BURLING UNDER FOREIGN
AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT TO GAIN INSPECTION OF FIRM'S
RECORDS DEALING WITH REPRESENTATION OF GOG. JUSTICE COM-
PLAINT CHARGED FIRM REFUSED SUBMIT FOR INSPECTION AS RE-
QUIRED BY ACT MORE THAN 1,000 PAGES OF DOCUMENTS RELATING
TO GUINEA. COVINGTON TOOK POSITION THAT ATTORNEY-CLIENT
PRIVILEGE PREVENTS -- UNLESS WAIVED BY GOG -- COMPLIANCE
WITH GOVERNMENT REQUEST. ARTICLE SAID IT UNCLEAR WHY
USG NOW SUING FOR SUCH DISCLOSURE FOR FIRST TIME, AND
WHY FIRM RESISTING INSPECTION. GOG MATERIALS REPORTEDLY
INCLUDE DOCUMENTS ON BOKE BAUXITE ENTERPRISE, AID AND
WORLD BANK FINANCED RAILROAD AND PORT FACILITIES, AND
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS SUCH AS LES BALLET AFRICAINS. COVING
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TON PARTNER STANSBURY QUOTED AS COMMENTING FIRM PERFECTLY

HAPPY TO HAVE ISSUE REFERRED TO COURT AND WILL TURN OVER
DOCUMENTS IF COURT DETERMINES ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE
DOES NOT APPLY.

2. DEPARTMENT INFORMED GUINEAN AMBASSADOR OF NYT ARTICLE,
NOTING THAT FEBRUARY 5 AIDE MEMOIRE (REF) EXPLAINED
BACKGROUND OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ACTION. AMBASSADOR
HAD NO IMMEDIATE REACTION. INGERSOLL

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